

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

OSD DECLASSIFICATION/RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS ON FILE

Dear Mr. President:

Attached are the views of the Department of Defense concerning the recommendations in the Report of the Hoover Commission Task Force on Intelligence Activities, so far as they deal with the elements of this Department and its relations with other agencies.

In compliance with your instructions, the views of all interested elements of the Department of Defense were elicited, and the comments which follow represent a consensus of these views. Further in keeping with your instructions, these comments have not been consolidated with those of the Department of State or the Director of Central Intelligence.

The recommendations deal with parallel problems in the three services, and thus are closely interrelated and in some cases partly duplicative. Accordingly, for the sake of clarity, recommendations have been grouped by general subject for discussion in the comments that follow.

The Report of the Task Force on Intelligence Activities is still under study, and further analysis of numerous recommendations will be necessary before we can determine the best course of action. Accordingly, additional comments may follow later.

The general tenor of the Task force's recommendations in most respects is close to the views already held in the Department of Defense.

Comments on the published portions of the Clark Sub-Committee Report will be consolidated with those relating to other reports of the Hoover Commission, to be submitted separately.

The recommendations of the Task force with which the Department of Defense concurs do not generally require legislation other than in the field of personnel wherein the committee recommends wider use of exempted positions within the Civil Service, and adjustments in certain privileges of civilians when serving overseas which would bring them into line with those accorded military and Foreign Service personnel. Proposals for such legislation will be submitted on a routine case-by-case basis.

att. #1 to 112336
SecDef Control TS 143

In accordance with your instructions, the Department of Defense will express no public view on the Task Force recommendation concerning the establishment of a "watch dog committee."

With great respect, I am

Faithfully yours,

/S/

C. E. WILSON

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(Appendix contains
~~SECRET~~ material)

The President

The White House

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